

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means being a coating consisting of aluminum silicate.

2 - 3. (cancelled).

4. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means being a coating consisting of zirconium silicate.

5. (cancelled).

6. (previously presented) A casting system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said core is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of tantalum, niobium, tungsten, alloys thereof, and intermetallic compounds thereof.

7. (previously presented) A casting system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said core is formed from molybdenum.

8. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means being a coating consisting of an oxide selected from the group consisting of calcia, and magnesia.

9 - 10. (cancelled).

11. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means comprising a coating contacting said refractory metal core, said coating comprising a nitride selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride, sialon, and mixtures thereof.

12. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means comprising a coating adjacent said core, said coating comprising a carbide selected from the group consisting of silicon carbide, titanium carbide, and mixtures thereof.

13. (cancelled).

14 - 15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means comprising a coating, said coating comprising a ceramic coating and a layer between the refractory metal forming the refractory metal core and said ceramic coating, wherein said layer is formed from a materials selected from the group consisting of TiC and Si_3N_4 .

17 - 25. (cancelled).